



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

March 23, 2004

Mr. Stephen Tharinger, Chair  
Clallam County Board of Health  
223 East 4<sup>th</sup>, Suite 14  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Geoffrey Masci, Chair  
Jefferson County Board of Health  
615 Sheridan Street  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Dear Chair Tharinger and Chair Masci:

Thank you for your July 2003 letter regarding sewage releases from vessels and for your request that the State Board of Health (SBOH) hold a public forum on whether existing practices and the current regulatory framework provide adequate public health protections.

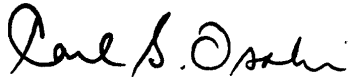
In response to Jefferson County and Clallam County boards of health concerns about sewage releases from vessels, the SBOH was briefed by Larry Fay, Ann Kenney from the Department of Ecology, and John Veentjer of the US Coast Guard at its March 10, 2004 meeting in Tacoma. Mr. Veentjer and Ms. Kenney described their agencies' roles in cruise ship wastewater management practices. Ms. Kenney also presented on the draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the state of Washington, the Port of Seattle, and the Northwest Cruiseship Association.

At the March SBOH meeting I offered to monitor the MOU's impact on cruise ship wastewater management practices and periodically bring the issue forward to the State Board. I have tentatively scheduled a follow up briefing for the December 8, 2004 State Board meeting in SeaTac. At that point we may be able to get an update from Ecology and the US Coast Guard about the MOU's success in improving cruise ship wastewater management practices.

The Department of Ecology is now inviting public comment on the draft MOU, which is available for review on the Internet at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq> (see under What's New). SBOH staff forwarded this request for public comment to Dr. Tom Locke, Larry Fay, and Andy Brastad.

If you have any questions please call the SBOH office. Members of our staff will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl S. Osaki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carl" being the most prominent.

Carl Osaki, Member  
Washington State Board of Health

cc: Clallam County Board of Health Members  
Jefferson County Board of Health Members  
Washington State Board of Health Members  
JoAnne Dille, Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services  
Andy Brastad, Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services  
Jean Baldwin, Jefferson County Health and Social Services Department  
Larry Fay, Jefferson County Health and Social Services Department